

SYLVIA RIMAT

IMAGINE US

A wonderful imaginative
and magical performance

- Edith Doove, Curator and Researcher at University of Plymouth



IMAGINE US

IMAGINE US is a flexible outdoor performance / intervention with a playful humorous narrative which invites a passing audience to engage and participate.

On a large screen in a busy populated area a playful narrative starts to unfold. The text is typed live by artist Sylvia Rimat whilst silently sitting with her laptop adjacent to the screen. Crowds begin to gather around the screen as they wonder what the typed messages are for. Over the course of the next 45min the narrative written by Rimat plays with the thoughts and intentions of passers-by who are gradually being woven into her story. Something is about to happen, here and now. It will be intense! The unsuspecting audiences are asked, via the screen text, to step into the story, they are invited to enact the on screen instructions such as clashing cymbals, picking up letters, and slowly the audience make the imagined performance come alive. The performance climaxes with a waltz, the performer puts on a 'real' bear head mask and dances in red high heels, no longer hunched down with her laptop. Audiences can't resist and join in the waltz, dancing with the bear and with each other.

IMAGINE US plays with 'the real' and 'the imagined', the physical and the thought spaces we pass through and is concerned with bringing public space alive. It is a welcoming, humorous, piece of live art which draws audiences into another world via the familiar medium of the screen, using a narrative structure to encourage audience participation.

Duration 45 mins.

Supported by Arts Council England and by Residence Bristol.

QUOTES

Sylvia Rimat's **IMAGINE US** performance was a first for the Plymouth Big Screen – using a largely text based format to interact with the audience. It was really exciting to see how passing shoppers responded to the storyline and how easily engaged they were. The audience covered all age ranges and it was clear many of those who watched would never have gone to a gallery or theatre to see this type of performance.

- KEVIN HEATHORN, PRODUCER BBC BIG SCREEN (SEP 11)

Imagine us is a wonderful imaginative and magical performance with the public effectively coming to a stand still to read the unfolding story on the big screen and join in the dance with the bear at the end. It demonstrates how an everyday public, that is not necessarily well-versed in contemporary art, is quite willing to engage with the unknown.

- EDITH DOOVE, CURATOR AND RESEARCHER AT UNIVERSITY OF PLYMOUTH (SEP 11)

Sylvia Rimat succeeds in making Plymouth City Centre quirky and cool.

- PASSER-BY/AUDIENCE MEMBER ON TWITTER (SEP 11)

I thought it was very good, I really enjoyed it, it was thought provoking. I quite liked the bits where you were catching people out and they were discovering it was them really. And actually having to discover who those people were was quite interesting [...]. And then I was looking for the bear a lot of the time, thinking it was probably to be on the top of those buildings but it wasn't. I was constantly looking for a bear and I didn't expect it to be in a bag.

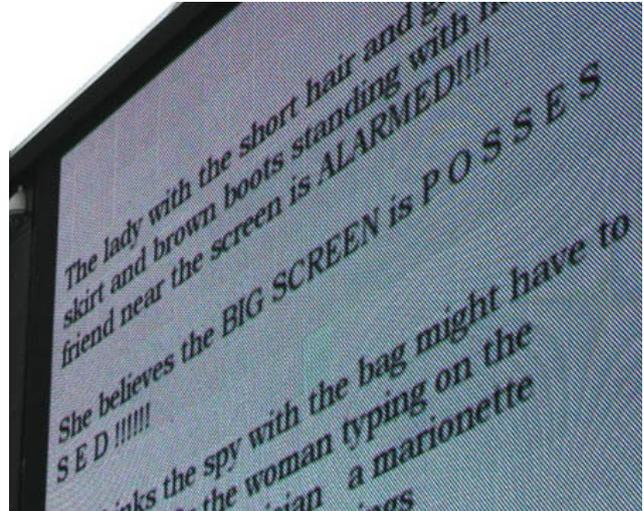
- PASSER-BY/AUDIENCE MEMBER (SEP 11)

That was awesome, we loved it, really enjoyed it. Looking around, everyone loved it. [...] It is really interactive. If I see people in Plymouth together, dancing...

- PASSER-BY/AUDIENCE MEMBER (SEP 11)

VIDEO

A 5min trailer can be watched on <http://vimeo.com/31955273>



SITE REQUIREMENTS

The performance / intervention can take place in an urban site / city centre, as well as in park sites/ festival / rural locations. It is adaptable for both daytime or evening slots and is adaptable in scale.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- a large outdoor screen or alternatively a daylight projector
- PA and connection cable for i-pod (mini-jack)
- long VGA lead to connect screen/ projector with laptop (provided by artist)
- power supply for laptop

STAFF REQUIREMENTS

- a technician to connect laptop with screen and run one sound cue
- 2 volunteers (provided by venue) to carry out small actions during the performance

ARTIST BIOG

An owl tamer, a bear in red heels, a dancer from a bygone era: Sylvia Rimat creates original solo performances with a pinch of the surreal.

Rimat deftly blends theatre and live art. She encourages her audience to interact playfully with elements of video, new technologies, animals (imagined and real) and fragments of dance. Consciousness, memory and the imagination are recurring themes, coupled with a process that begins with collaboration. Her research culminates in intelligent, humorous performances that are equally entertaining and thought-provoking.

Born in Germany, Sylvia Rimat is based in Bristol, UK. She performs in theatres, galleries and public spaces. Her work has been presented throughout the UK and Europe, including the British Council Showcase at Edinburgh Fringe Festival, London's Barbican Centre in SPILL Festival, In Between Time Festival (Bristol) and venues in Denmark, Poland, Germany and Spain. Sylvia is an In Between Time Associate Artist and a member of Residence in Bristol.

BOOKING INFORMATION

PRODUCER

TANYA STEINHAUSER

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ARTIST WEBSITE

www.sylviarimat.com



I'd recommend catching Ms Rimat if you have the opportunity, she's a unique, charming and thoughtful talent..



– Gscene Magazine (on 'I guess if the stage exploded...')